CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method for adaptively setting a data refresh interval comprising:

providing a data source;

providing a data using means for utilizing data from the data source, the data using means having an initial refresh interval;

providing a communication link between the data source and the data using means;

monitoring at least one criteria related to the refresh interval;

generating an updated data refresh interval based at least in part on the monitored criteria; and

changing the initial data refresh interval of the data using means to the updated data refresh interval.

2.   The method for adaptively setting a data refresh interval according to claim 1, wherein the communication link comprises a network.

3.   The method for adaptively setting a data refresh interval according to claim 2, wherein the network is a global computer network.

4.   The method for adaptively setting a data refresh interval according to claim 1, wherein the data using means is a web browser.

5.   The method for adaptively setting a data refresh interval according to claim 1, further comprising providing a database for storing the data received from the data source.

6. The method for adaptively setting a data refresh interval according to claim 5, further comprising providing a means for generating at least one display page based at least in part on the data stored in the database and which is viewable on the data using means.

7. The method for adaptively setting a data refresh interval according to claim 1, further comprising providing a means for generating at least one display page based at least in part on the data from the data source and which is viewable on the data using entity.

8. The method for adaptively setting a data refresh interval according to claim 1, wherein the at least one criteria is selected from the group comprising the likelihood that the data using entity will receive a large amount of data, the available bandwidth of the communications network, the closeness of the client to the part of the web site containing a source of data, the ability of the server to process data, client usage patterns, database usage patterns, and the nature of the data.

9. The method for adaptively setting a data refresh interval according to claim 1, wherein the monitored criteria is used in an adaptive algorithm to determine the updated refresh interval.

10. The method for adaptively setting a data refresh interval according to claim 1, wherein the updated refresh interval is transmitted to the data using means.

11.   The method for adaptively setting a data refresh interval according to claim 1, wherein the data using means uses the updated refresh interval to determine when to refresh the data using means.

12.   The method for adaptively setting a data refresh interval according to claim 1, wherein the data using means requests data from the data source.

13.   The method for adaptively setting a data refresh interval according to claim 1, further comprising providing a data server in communication with the data source and data using means, wherein the data server generates and transmits the updated refresh interval in response to the request for data by the data using means.

14.   The method for adaptively setting a data refresh interval according to claim 13, wherein a subsequent request for data by the data using means is based at least in part on the updated refresh interval.

15.   The method for adaptively setting a data refresh interval according to claim 1, wherein the data using means is a visual display, an audible display, or a tactile display.

16.   The method for adaptively setting a data refresh interval according to claim 8, wherein the at least one display page is pushed to the data using means.

17.   The method for adaptively setting a data refresh interval according to claim 9, wherein the at least one display page is pushed to the data using means.

18.   A adaptively refreshed data using system comprising:

a data source;

a data using means for utilizing data from the data source, the data using means having an initial refresh interval;

a communication link between the data source and the data using means;

a criteria monitor for monitoring at least one criteria related to the refresh interval;

a processor for generating an updated data refresh interval based at least in part on the monitored criteria; whereby the data using means is updated based on the data refresh interval.

19.   The adaptively refreshed data using system according to claim 18, wherein the communication link comprises a network.

20.   The adaptively refreshed data using system according to claim 19, wherein the network is a global computer network.

21.   The adaptively refreshed data using system according to claim 18, wherein the data using means is a web browser.

22.   The adaptively refreshed data using system according to claim 18, further comprising a database for storing the data received from the data source.

23.   The adaptively refreshed data using system according to claim 22, further comprising a means for generating at least one display page based at least in part on the data stored in the database and which is viewable on the data using means.

24.   The adaptively refreshed data using system according to claim 18, further comprising a means for generating at least one display page based at least in part on the data from the data source and which is viewable on the data using entity.

25.   The adaptively refreshed data using system according to claim 18, wherein the at least one criteria is selected from the group comprising the likelihood that the data using entity will receive a large amount of data, the available bandwidth of the communications network, the closeness of the client to the part of the web site containing a source of data, the ability of the server to process data, client usage patterns, database usage patterns, and the nature of the data.

26.   The adaptively refreshed data using system according to claim 18, wherein the monitored criteria is used in an adaptive algorithm to determine the updated refresh interval.

27.   The adaptively refreshed data using system according to claim 18, wherein the updated refresh interval is transmitted to the data using means.

28.   The adaptively refreshed data using system according to claim 18, wherein the data using means uses the updated refresh interval to determine when to refresh the data using means.

29.   The adaptively refreshed data using system according to claim 18, wherein the data using means requests data from the data source.

30.   The adaptively refreshed data using system according to claim 18, further comprising a data server in communication with the data source and data using means, wherein the data server generates and transmits the updated refresh interval in response to the request for data by the data using means.

31.   The adaptively refreshed data using system according to claim 30, wherein a subsequent request for data by the data using means is based at least in part on the updated refresh interval.

32.   The adaptively refreshed data using system according to claim 18, wherein the data using means is a visual display, an audible display, or a tactile display.

33.   The adaptively refreshed data using system according to claim 23, wherein the at least one display page is pushed to the data using means.

34.   The adaptively refreshed data using system according to claim 24, wherein the at least one display page is pushed to the data using means.